

REF ID: A62 23

FORM NO. 51-4AA
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

REFERENCE COPY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 1 August 1952

SUBJECT 1. Cavalry Equipment and Tactics
2. Reservists and Military Schools
3. Miscellaneous Military Information

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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Cavalry Equipment and Tactics

1. Close-range weapons used by cavalry units are:
 - a. Hand grenades with handle, for attack or defense;
 - b. Carbine;
 - c. Smoke apparatus of cylindrical shape, weight one kilogram, which produces a smoke screen which lasts 30 minutes, operated by opening lid;
 - d. Pistol; and
 - e. Sword.
2. Other weapons include light and heavy machine guns, light 60 mm. mortars, heavy 81 mm. mortars, and semi-automatic 37.2 Skoda antitank guns.
3. There are no special antiaircraft weapons in cavalry units. Antitank rifles previously used have been replaced by 37.2 mm. antitank guns. Engineering tools consist of spades, picks, and axes. Signal rockets are used,
 The men are equipped with gas masks.
4. Cavalry units have the following communications equipment:
 - a. "Tsar Boris" telephones, Bulgarian make, speaking range of approximately three kilometers, portable exchange sets weighing approximately 20

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kilograms, telephone apparatus and battery weighing approximately 10-15 kilograms; and

- b. German-made radios, maximum range eight kilometers, weight approximately 25 kilograms, can be carried by one soldier on horseback.
5. Offensive cavalry tactics consist of attack by mounted advance in dispersed order to within one to three kilometers of the enemy lines.¹ Troops then dismount, leave their horses with horseholders, and advance to within 150 meters of the enemy, from which point they stage a bayonet assault. The horses are then brought up to the line, and, as the enemy retreats, the troops mount and pursue.
6. On the defensive, cavalry units dig in on three lines which are 500-1,000 meters apart. The vanguard is responsible for detaining the enemy while the main defensive forces hold the second line, and the reserves form the rear. When the attacking enemy has closed to within 3,000 meters of the first line, the defense opens fire with heavy machine guns. When the enemy is within 1,000-1,200 meters, the light machine guns are used. Carbines are used at 500-600 meter ranges, and hand grenades, sidearms, and any other available weapons are used at closer ranges. In hand-to-hand combat, cavalry units may be either ordered to retreat or to counterattack. Horseholders keep the unit's horses approximately 1,000 meters behind the line with the reserves.
7. Night exercises are held in cavalry units approximately once a week, during which troops use full field equipment, with the exception of horses. The tactics are primarily for observation training; the troops fire colored signal rockets immediately upon sighting the enemy. No training is done on the day immediately following night maneuvers.
8. During the summer months, squad, platoon, company, and battalion exercises take place, after which the units are inspected by the regimental commander and the regimental headquarters officers to check offensive and defensive capabilities. During the winter, when individual exercises have been completed and the units are encamped, the regimental commander inspects the units; subsequently, the superior divisional commander and divisional headquarters officers inspect the units.

Reservists and Military Schools

9. Part of the 1927 and 1928 reserve classes are on active duty as well as the entire 1929, 1930, and 1931 classes. Reservists are not called on any fixed schedule but are reactivated whenever necessary; at present, the 1915-1925 classes are under arms. Officers up to the rank of captain, who have a good reputation or are Communists, are being recalled. In Sliven, an infantry officer [] was called up for 45-day duty. 50X1-HUM
10. Army officers are graduates of the War College in Sofia or the Reserve Officers School. Young Communists who are lycee graduates are accepted by both schools; War College courses last three years and Reserve Officers courses last one year.

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11. The War College has the following component sections:

- a. Cavalry section at Silistra;
- b. Artillery section at the artillery school in Sofia;
- c. Antiaircraft section at the antiaircraft regiment located five or six kilometers southeast of Sofia;
- d. Air section at Bozhurishte field;
- e. Armored section at the armored regiment in Sofia;
- f. Engineer section at the engineer regiment in Sofia;
- g. Communications section at the communication regiment in Sofia; and
- h. Infantry section at the War College.

12. Reserve officers in the units constitute from 20 to 30 percent of the young officers. Whereas reserve officers were formerly appointed sergeants upon graduating from the schools and were discharged after one year's service, young men are now graduated as second lieutenants and are treated like regular Army officers in that they can remain as regular officers and can be promoted; however, they may not at present leave the Army.

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13. Some Army personnel are sent to the USSR for practical or theoretical training. These men are selected from the Communists and are sent for a year or more, depending upon their specialization. Upon return to Bulgaria, these men receive the best positions, such as teacher or commander of a military school. High-ranking officers are usually sent to the USSR.

14. There are no special non-commissioned officers schools in Bulgaria; each unit trains its own non-commissioned candidates. Senior enlisted men who are Communist Party members are eligible for these courses. Courses last from three to four months, and graduates are designated as non-commissioned officer candidates and assigned as squad commanders; later they may become non-commissioned officers and sergeant-majors. At present, these non-commissioned officer candidates are eligible to become officers, provided that they are members of the Communist Party.

Miscellaneous Military Information

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15. [redacted] the USSR has provided jet aircraft to Bulgaria and [redacted] seen some of these jets on the Plovdiv airfield [redacted]
16. Soviet Yak fighters are used by the Bulgarian Air Force. These planes resemble the German Messerschmidts and have a speed of 700-800 kilometers per hour.
17. Bulgarian pilots are very inexperienced because all those who formerly were Air Force officers have been dismissed.

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18. [redacted] the following units in Pleven: a heavy artillery regiment, an engineer regiment, and an infantry supply regiment.
19. There are three cavalry regiments in Bulgaria:
- a. The Palace Guard regiment in Sofia;
 - b. The 8 Cavalry Regiment in Dobrich; and
 - c. The cavalry section of the War College in Silistra.
20. The following units are in Sofia [redacted]
- a. The 1 and 6 Infantry Regiments in the southern part of the city;
 - b. The First Army Artillery Regiment, located in the eastern part of the city, near the Poduene railroad station;
 - c. The artillery regiment of an unidentified division, housed in barracks approximately four kilometers southeast of the city on the road to Plovdiv; [redacted] the regiment was formerly attached to 4 Division [redacted]
 - d. An unidentified communications regiment, housed in barracks to the south of the city, behind the infantry regiment;
 - e. An unidentified engineer regiment, housed in barracks in the southwest part of the city on the Knyazhevo River;
 - f. An unidentified antiaircraft regiment, housed in barracks between five and six kilometers southeast of the city on the road to Plovdiv;
 - g. An unidentified armored regiment, quartered in barracks in the southeast part of the city near the park;
 - h. An unidentified cavalry regiment, the old Palace Guard Regiment, housed in barracks near the Levski monument;
 - i. An artillery school, situated in the northwestern outskirts of the city; and
 - j. The 1 Division, the 7 Division from Dupnitsa, and the 11 Division, all components of the First Army; [redacted] 11 Division is augmented by units which are mobilized in time of war; [redacted] only the headquarters of 11 Division are in Sofia, and [redacted] the division is only theoretically in existence.
21. The arms and ammunition stores of the Sofia garrison are situated three kilometers southeast of Sofia. As of 1946, the stores were composed of 30 to 50 buildings, most of which were underground.
22. The firing range of the Sofia garrison is in the Lozenets quarter. Firing is done in two tunnels which are approximately 150-200 meters long and four meters wide. Each unit has its own fortified practice range in its compound.

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23. Armored units are being formed into brigades. [] one armored brigade in Sofia and one in Plovdiv, as well as unidentified armored units in Kazanluk, Sliven, and Yambol. []

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24. The light German tanks formerly used by the Army have been transferred to the Militia, and the Army now uses T-34 medium tanks exclusively. The T-34's have armor plates which are six or seven centimeters thick on the front and three to four centimeters on the sides. []

[] the turret section of the tanks are of one-piece cast steel, and [] the body is rolled steel plate. [] the tanks could be destroyed easily.

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25. Cooperation between Army personnel and the Militia is good. The misunderstandings between the units which occurred after 1944 were generally personal affairs. The Army is the "Defender of the Country," although the Militia received more credit and was allowed to arrest Army personnel on its own authority. Army prestige is very high, and [] the Militia may not now interfere with the Army or arrest Army personnel. Army personnel salute Militia officers as well as their Army superiors. The same amiable relations do not exist between the Army and the Trudovaks.

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26. Air Force uniforms are gray and Navy uniforms are dark blue. Army uniforms are yellow-brown and have the following collar insignia:

- a. Infantry, red collar badge;
- b. Artillery, black collar badge;
- c. Frontier Guards, green collar badge;
- d. Armored units, yellow collar badge;
- e. Antiaircraft units, dark blue collar badge;
- f. Cavalry units, light blue collar badge; and
- g. Engineers and communications units, black surrounded by a blue band.

1. [] Comment: It is not clear whether one to three kilometers or one-third kilometer is meant.

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